

RETURN DATE: July 6, 2021

Docket No. CV-21-6107764-S

KRISTAN HAMLIN,

Plaintiff,

SUPERIOR COURT
J.D. OF FAIRFIELD AT
BRIDGEPORT
JULY 3, 2021

-against-

JONATHAN STEINBERG and
LISA NEWMAN

Defendants.

.....X

FIRST AMENDED VERIFIED COMPLAINT

(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)

Plaintiff Kristan Hamlin (hereafter, “plaintiff” or “Hamlin”) complaining of Jonathan Steinberg (“Steinberg”), and Lisa Newman (“Newman”) (collectively, “defendants”), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a tort action for defamation under Connecticut common law against Jonathan Steinberg and Lisa Newman.
2. This is a claim for fraudulent misrepresentation against Steinberg. Jonathan Steinberg falsely represented his background to plaintiff and other voters and volunteers, knowing that such representations were untrue, and induced plaintiff and others to rely and act upon that false information to her detriment.

THE PARTIES, VENUE AND JURISDICTION

3. Plaintiff, Kristan Hamlin, is a resident of Westport, CT, and a senior member of the Westport, DTC, with service in numerous leadership roles at the DTC. She also has served four terms in the local town legislature.

4. The defendant Steinberg, is also a resident in Westport, CT, and lives at 1 Bushy Ridge Rd., Westport, CT. He seeks to run for the First Selectman role in Westport.

5. Defendant Lisa Newman is a resident of Westport, at 25 Cob Dr., Westport, CT. She has intermittently served for the last two and a half years as the Campaign Chairman for Jonathan Steinberg's campaigns in the town of Westport.

6. This court has jurisdiction over the parties because they are all residents in Westport, Fairfield County, the acts described herein arose in and around Westport, and the torts and injury occurred in and around Westport. All claims herein are state law claims. As the state of Connecticut is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred, and the parties live here, venue is proper within this state.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Steinberg's False Misleading Statements About His Background

7. Defendant Steinberg advertises on Linked-In that he has worked as a marketing executive for JPS Marketing for the past fourteen years. Upon information and belief, that assertion is entirely false. Ex. A.

8. A review of the corporate registrations filed with the Connecticut Secretary of State shows that there is no such entity by the name of JPS Marketing or "JPS" plus any name that is

registered in the state as associated with Steinberg's name or for which he works. Ex. B. There is no Delaware-registered company by that name, either.

9. There is, in fact, a trademarked organization called JPS Marketing in New Zealand and Australia, for which Steinberg has **never** worked.

10. Upon information and belief, Steinberg's public assertion that he has a company named JPS Marketing or that he has worked for one the last fourteen years is untrue.

11. Upon information and belief, he has not worked in marketing during the past fourteen years, because his previous conduct with employers has rendered him unemployable in the marketing profession, because he cannot secure a good reference from his last or previous employer.

12. His fraudulent misrepresentations about his professional background constitute a fraud on the voters and volunteers who supported his state representative candidacy, and his First Selectman candidacy.

13. His Linked-in advertisement about his alleged career is misleading, at best.

14. Upon information and belief, Steinberg has admitted to friends privately that he has been unable to get employment in the private sector for the last fourteen years, because he cannot get a reference from his prior employers.

15. Plaintiff relied on Steinberg's misstatements about Steinberg's work history to her detriment when in reliance on his fraudulent misrepresentations, she spent numerous months in 2018 working on Steinberg's campaign (writing his communications), threw fundraiser[s] for Steinberg over the last decade, and supported his challenges in 2013 when he challenged what he claimed was an unfair DTC Nominations Committee process

16. Jonathan's in-office misconduct in previous employment involved petulance, an explosive temper, unhinged behavior and anger-management issues. These troubling stories from prior employers about his temperamental and explosive in-office behavior have rendered him unemployable in the private sector, despite impressive academic credentials.

17. Having no luck at any time in the last fourteen years to gain employment in the private sector because of his inability to overcome bad references and troubling accounts of unstable in-office behavior, Steinberg sought part-time work for three months a year in a low-paying, elected state government position, where no employment reference would be necessary. However, because the pay is so miniscule, he has sought an elected position that is higher paying, such as the First Selectman position.

18. Steinberg's efforts to seek the First Selectman position met with failure in 2013. Concern was voiced that Steinberg could not be the Town's head executive with hundreds of employees reporting to him, because of his proven record of instability and outbursts in an office situation.

19. Steinberg's inability to work in an in-office environment without retaliatory behavior, outbursts and vindictiveness resulted in the decision in 2013 that he could not be the Democratic candidate for First Selectman. Unlike a part-time legislative position wherein he would only work a few months a year, and have no supervisory authority over employees, the First Selectman position requires that hundreds of employees report to the chief executive of a Town. Steinberg was deemed unfit for that larger role in which he would be the head administrator over hundreds of employees and the head executive of a town with an annual budget of approximately one quarter billion dollars.

20. Steinberg challenged the Westport DTC's decision in 2013 that he was unfit for the executive role on the grounds that the nominating process was biased and not fair. Plaintiff

supported Steinberg's right to challenge the fairness of the process in 2013. Plaintiff supported Steinberg's right to raise due process and bias arguments about the DTC Nomination Committee's process, even if the actual merits of his candidacy were not there.

21. Steinberg lost his challenge in the 2013 race before the general DTC at the caucus.

22. Despite arguing in 2013 that bias in the Nominations Committee process was bad for local politics and democracy, Steinberg proved in 2021 that his principles were not central to his concerns in 2013. He was ready, able and willing to employ similar unfair tactics to win in 2021 in his next effort to become First Selectman. Steinberg then set out to ensure that he cultivated a biased process at the DTC in 2021, when he decided to run again. The conduct at issue on the part of Steinberg and others as set forth in this Amended Complaint is important context for Plaintiff's claims for relief set forth herein.

B. Cronyism and Quid Pro Quos to Secure the Nomination

23. Steinberg knew that Melissa Katz-Kane was the closest Westport friend of Westport DTC Chair, Ellen Lautenberg, who has sole authority to appoint the DTC Nomination's Committee. Steinberg knew that Kane wanted to run in a town-wide election again, despite her consistent past failures in town-wide elections.

24. Kane has made it known she seeks Steinberg's position and wanted him to run for First Selectman, so she could run for his State Representative seat.

25. Upon information and belief, Steinberg therefore conspired with Kane to enter into a corrupt deal, in which Kane would use her influence on Lautenberg to appoint a Nominations Committee weighted in Steinberg's favor. If nominated and elected for First Selectman with Kane's help, then Steinberg's state representative job would open up. Once

Steinberg's State Representative position potentially became available, Lautenberg would then appoint a nominations committee weighted in favor of Kane, and attempt to impose Kane on Westport voters as a candidate once again, and Steinberg agreed he would endorse Kane for his job as State Representative if she helped him secure Lautenberg's support.

26. In the summer of 2020, Lautenberg discussed with other officers this plan to choose Steinberg as the First Selectman. Her expressly stated purpose was to free up Steinberg's state representative job for Kane, who would then be able to have yet another shot at a town-wide election. Lautenberg promoted this plan despite the fact that Westport voters repeatedly rejected Kane's candidacy each time in the past eight years. Lautenberg's fiduciary obligations to the DTC to promote good (respected) candidates most likely to win should have been given more weight than her personal friendship for Kane. Newman told plaintiff that Lautenberg told Lisa Newman that they should choose Steinberg to become the First Selectman candidate so his job would finally be freed for Lautenberg's friend, Kane. In a conversation between Lautenberg and plaintiff months later, Lautenberg confirmed she had indeed said that.

27. Newman and Lautenberg worked together during 2020 to manipulate elections to the executive committee and who was on the Nominations Committee. Newman informed plaintiff in the late summer of 2020 that if she would forego running for the Executive Committee and let a district colleague have that spot, Lautenberg would put her on the Nominations Committee. (Ex. E). Plaintiff agreed to that arrangement. Newman tried to persuade plaintiff that the Executive Committee was virtually non-existent in 2020 anyway. She explained that the DTC officers did not hold the election for Executive Committee spots in March as required by State Central Rules, as they did not want to seat Sal Liccione, who was the

only person running for the District 9 spot. They wanted time to recruit someone to run against him.

28. In the autumn of 2020, plaintiff inquired of Lautenberg how she could be running the DTC without an Executive Committee in place for three seasons, in violation of State Central Rules. Plaintiff expressed concern that Lautenberg was running the DTC consulting with only two novice DTC members/officers (Newman and Mark Friedman), who each had relatively little DTC experience. Lautenberg explained to plaintiff that there was no worry, because she had put Steinberg and Kane on the Executive Committee and consulted with them on everything.

29. Lautenberg failed to appreciate that this conduct of her unilaterally appointing Steinberg and Kane to the Executive Committee was a violation of DTC Bylaws, which state that the Executive Committee shall be composed of elected district leaders and elected officers. Months later at a State Central hearing about Lautenberg's violations of the Bylaws and State Central rules, Lautenberg admitted she had put Kane and Steinberg on the Executive Committee. Her explanation was revealing about how she believed that the rules did not apply to her: She asserted at the hearing that she had the power to put anyone on the Executive Committee she wanted (despite what the Bylaws provided).

30. In the early autumn of 2020, Newman wrote plaintiff a text message that she had already concluded that Steinberg was a "nightmare" as a candidate and could never win against the predicted Republican candidates, Jen Tooker and Andrea Moore. *See* Ex. C (Newman's assessment that Steinberg was a 'nightmare' as a candidate). Newman also discussed orally with plaintiff what Newman described as Lautenberg's cronyistic plot. She lamented Lautenberg's plan to turn the DTC inside out to run who Newman believed was a substandard

candidate, Steinberg, with a low chance of winning, simply to promote the political ambitions of a crony, Kane, who the Westport voters have repeatedly rejected for town-wide office.

31. Newman shared with plaintiff complaints by Westport citizens that Steinberg was grumpy, dour, sour and a curmudgeon when he came to a Rotary lobster fest. She expressed frustration that he did not like to campaign or raise money, and did not have what it takes to win a First Selectman race. *See, e.g., ex. C.*

32. Given that Newman was working so closely with Steinberg and was his Campaign Chair twice, these close observations by Newman were deeply troubling. Therefore, when two other experienced candidates submitted their names to run for First Selectman in or about the autumn of 2020, plaintiff expressed her enthusiasm for them in conversations with two persons that Lautenberg had determined would be on the Nominations Committee (Nevas and Friedman), both of whom openly expressed to plaintiff their support instead for Lautenberg's preferred candidate, Steinberg.

33. After learning that plaintiff made positive comments about those two other candidates, Lautenberg told plaintiff by email on New Year's Eve 2020 that she was removing plaintiff from the Nominations Committee because she had expressed favorable opinions about two candidates other than Lautenberg's choice, Steinberg.

34. When plaintiff inquired why the DTC Vice Chair, and the Nomination Committee's chair were allowed to express opinions favorable to Steinberg and still remain on the Nominations Committee, but plaintiff was not allowed to express favorable opinions of other candidates, Lautenberg had no answer. She did not bother to explain the unscrupulous bait-and-switch ploy she had used to manipulate the executive committee election in plaintiff's district and to induce plaintiff to believe she would be on the Nominations Committee. Plaintiff began to

understand that a sense of integrity was no bar to Lautenberg's political machinations on behalf of Kane and Steinberg.

35. In prior months, plaintiff had discussed with Lautenberg that Newman expressed concern that Lautenberg appeared to be willing to "turn the DTC inside out" to choose a First Selectman candidate less likely to win, simply to promote the ambitions of Lautenberg's closest friend, Kane, a repeatedly failed candidate in town-wide elections.

36. Plaintiff privately reminded Lautenberg that her fiduciary obligations had to be to the Westport DTC first, not to promoting the selfish personal interests of her closest Westport friend. Plaintiff privately reminded Lautenberg that cronyism contravenes what the Democratic party's ideals. Lautenberg admitted she had discussed her plan (to promote Steinberg for First Selectman so that Kane could seek his State Representative job) with Newman, but defensively claimed that she had since become convinced of Newman's insights about Steinberg's dim prospects.

37. Lautenberg represented to plaintiff that Lautenberg told Kane that she realized Steinberg would not win, and that they should not pursue their plan.

38. Lautenberg repeatedly told plaintiff to ask Kane to confirm that Lautenberg told Kane that she now realized Jonathan could not win, and that they should not engage in this arrangement.

39. Despite Lautenberg's above representations to the contrary, Lautenberg continued corrupting what should be a fair process.

40. Upon information and belief, Kane continued to urge Lautenberg that they pursue the biased arrangement that she had suggested.

41. Upon information and belief, Kane discussed with Lautenberg having Kane placed on the Nominations Committee, so she could persuade committee members that Steinberg was the most qualified, and then have Steinberg -- in a pre-arranged *quid pro quo* -- endorse Kane for his seat, after Lautenberg appointed a nominations committee guaranteed to nominate Kane. Steinberg agreed to endorse Kane for his position if she helped him stack and convince the Nominations Committee to choose him as the First Selectman candidate.

42. When Newman discussed with plaintiff her concerns about the manipulation of the process going on, and how the DTC's interests in electing candidates who could win should be treated with more concern than Kane's personal political interests, Newman stated that she had decided to "think about herself." When plaintiff inquired what that meant, Newman explained she had her own future political interests to think about; Kane had placed a number of her followers in places of leadership on the DTC, including the DTC Chair. Lautenberg was determined to pursue a cronyistic plan that promoted her friend, Kane. Newman would have more influence if Steinberg were the eventual nominee. She said that the decision was baked-in, and it was not to her personal benefit to fight the inevitable.

43. Lautenberg's actions indicated that Lautenberg understood that many knew Kane wanted Steinberg's job and that, therefore, putting Kane on the committee posed an appearance problem because of Kane's conflict of interest.

44. In Lautenberg's attempt to feign concern about the appearance of impropriety presented by Lautenberg placing someone on the Nominations Committee who openly sought one of the potential candidate's state jobs (and who therefore wanted Steinberg to win the Selectman nomination), Lautenberg told candidates and others on the committee that Kane would participate in interviews, would caucus with the committee, but would not vote as part of the

Nominations Committee. However, Nominations Committee members do not traditionally cast an actual vote. Thus, in actuality, allowing Kane to fully participate in interviews and to caucus and persuade other committee members created the same problems and presented the very same conflict of interest.

45. DTC members and candidates expressed concern that Lautenberg proved obtuse to the importance of the need of the committee to appear objective.

46. One candidate complained that Lautenberg was tone-deaf to the appearance of impropriety that she was creating in also naming Steinberg's campaign manager, Newman, to the nominations committee, as well as Kane, who had a clear conflict of interest. Ex. D

47. All four other candidates, other than Steinberg, complained about the fairness of the selection process when they learned about who was appointed to the committee, experienced and heard the questions asked, and saw the result that one of the least likely candidates to prevail was selected.

C. Complaints by Other Democrats About the Corrupt and Unfair Selection Process That Lautenberg Employed

48. One candidate submitted a written complaint making clear that the DTC leadership failed by pursuing a biased approach. He made clear that Lautenberg, Newman and others presented leadership problems that resulted in none of the non-selected candidates having confidence in the fairness of the process. (See O'Day letter, Ex. D).

49. O'Day cited the discomfort -- while he claimed Kane glared at him --of being asked multiple questions during his interview about why he had in the past publicly opposed Kane in her last two failed races. He explained that he was hobbled in explaining openly his desired response, which was he was merely like most Westporters who did not believe she is

competent for town-wide office. His view was that she repeatedly lost — not because of the lack of loyalty of Democrats like himself – but because of her own lack of experience and merit.

50. O'Day wrote to the DTC about the appearance of impropriety of having both Steinberg's longstanding Campaign Chair, Newman, and conflicted Kane on the Nominations Committee. Ex. D.

51. O'Day implied in his written complaint to the DTC membership and elsewhere that these clear conflicts reflected a lack of ethics, discernment and leadership on Lautenberg's and the DTC leadership's part. *Id.*

52. Another Democratic town leader, Danielle Dobin, complained to DTC members about the inanity and ham-handedness of the selection process for P&Z candidates. She complained about the process Lautenberg employed that resulted in breaking up the winning Democratic team of P&Z officials.

53. Dobin pointed out that the candidate Lautenberg's nominations committee chose would not be endorsed by the third party, Save Westport Now. Such third-party endorsement was historically required for the Democrats to win the majority of the P&Z and to secure the chairmanship of the P&Z.

54. However, other DTC members opined that, because Newman had a toxic relationship with Dobin and was more interested in pursuing a vendetta against her than helping Democrats win, Lautenberg and Newman again pursued an approach that was selfish and personal, instead of in the best interests of Democrats or the DTC.

55. Upon hearing from multiple candidates about the unfairness of the process, a Westport Democrat, Johnson, decided to remind DTC members that the DTC Nominations

Committee only had the power of suggestion and that a candidate only became the DTC-endorsed nominee after the Democratic caucus was held in late July.

56. Johnson had formerly served in elected office and had previously withdrawn from the DTC because of the personalized and cruel treatment of her by Kane and Lautenberg.

57. Johnson wrote to more than a dozen DTC members reminding them it was the whole DTC at the July caucus that actually had the power to choose the DTC-endorsed candidate. Ex. F. She wrote that, given in her opinion that the Nominations Committee appeared appointed for the purpose to be weighted in favor of Steinberg, she cautioned waiting until the caucus, as that is the time and the venue when the Westport candidates will be selected under the State Central Rules. *Id.*

58. Johnson reminded DTC members that a candidate selected by the nominations committee was not actually a “DTC-endorsed candidate” under State Central Rules until the DTC-wide caucus in late July. *Id.*

59. Steinberg’s response to Johnson’s letter was so reactive, retaliatory, uncontrolled and irresponsible, that it caused alarm among Democrats, who became concerned as a result with his emotional stability and fitness to work in an office situation with hundreds of Town employees reporting to him.

D. Steinberg’s Explosive, Defamatory Responses

60. Upon reading Johnson’s email, Steinberg called Johnson and left an inappropriate voicemail for her. A copy of that voicemail is in plaintiff’s possession.

61. Steinberg’s phone conversations and text correspondence with Johnson revealed showed bad judgment and were untrue and defamatory.

62. In Steinberg's voicemail message left on May 19, 2021, he falsely and defamatorily told Johnson that her email setting forth State Central rules amounted to "spreading Kristan's lies." He falsely and defamatorily claimed that Johnson "betrayed" him by telling RTMers what the correct State Central Rules were.

63. On May 20th, Steinberg told Johnson that informing DTCers about the correct rules for becoming a nominee could hurt his nomination and that it was a betrayal of him. This can only mean that it was a betrayal of him because he needed DTC members to believe the falsehood that the Nominations Committee's suggestion had more weight than a mere suggestion. He wanted DTC members to believe he was the DTC-endorsed nominee.

64. In furtherance of this conspiracy with the DTC leadership to mislead DTC members that the Nominations Committee's mere suggestions somehow rendered a candidate the DTC-endorsed candidate, Steinberg lied to Dan Woog, the editor of the local paper/blog "06880."

65. Steinberg claimed to Woog that his nomination as the DTC-endorsed candidate was now "set," and that Steinberg was now the official nominee, and that the two candidates facing off in November were now determined to be Tooker and Steinberg. Ex. G.

66. Steinberg's claims to Woog were the actual lies, not Johnson's assertions about the process. Johnson's assertions in her email were the actual truth, which Steinberg does not want DTC members to know. He wants them to believe the false narrative that they serve merely a rubber-stamp function for the Nominations Committee.

67. After Woog spoke to the Westport Registrar of Voters, Marla Cowden, and learned the truth about the process and that Steinberg was not the DTC-endorsed nominee, Woog issued a correction on his Blog.

68. After the Woog Blog correction was issued, Ex. H, DTC officers Newman and Lautenberg instead posted in the Westport DTC social media news the *false original story*, not the corrected version. Ex. I. This action corroborated that they were conspiring with Steinberg to perpetuate a fraud on DTC voters, by misinforming them of the process.

69. Because of the incendiary nature of Steinberg's defamatory comments on May 19, 2001 that plaintiff and Johnson were 'spreading lies' about the DTC nomination process and about Jonathan, Johnson called Steinberg on May 20, 2021, to try to discuss what he believed the lies were, and what Steinberg's basis was to claim that Johnson's information about the process came from plaintiff, and that the information was a lie.

70. On May 20, 2021, Steinberg continued to claim to Johnson that plaintiff was a liar, had lied about the process as part of some unnamed 'agenda' that plaintiff allegedly had and that the information being spread allegedly by plaintiff and Johnson about the July caucus was 'a lie'.

71. Johnson asked Steinberg what the alleged "lie" was in her letter, because it merely reflected a correct summary of the process to become a DTC-endorsed candidate under State Central's rules.

72. Steinberg confirmed he could not identify what was untruthful about it. Nor could Steinberg support his untruthful claim that Johnson's letter was part of some 'agenda' by

plaintiff, or that Johnson's alleged "lie" came from plaintiff. He essentially acknowledged his assertions were based on speculation.

73. On May 20, 2021, Steinberg made other false, defamatory statements to Johnson and others that plaintiff's agenda was to "splinter[] the DTC."

74. On May 20, 2021, Steinberg wrote other false, defamatory statements to Johnson and others that the "story with Kristan goes back six months with many warnings. Some of your language was virtually consistent with what Kristan has been saying." That assertion was false and defamatory. In fact, there had been no prior warnings to plaintiff starting six months ago or at any time prior to May 20, 2021 that plaintiff was not allowed to tell people about the correct process or express concerns about the fairness of the Nominations Committee process.

75. Moreover, Steinberg's claim that the language in Johnson's letter was "virtually consistent with what Kristan" has been saying for the last six months is entirely false. All Steinberg's claims to Johnson and others on May 20, 2021 about plaintiff, her actions and her motives were false and defamatory.

76. Johnson pointed out that she and plaintiff had both supported Steinberg's efforts to contest the fairness of the Westport DTC nominations process eight years earlier in 2013, when Steinberg was the disappointed candidate. Johnson argued that candidates were always entitled to contest the objectivity of the nominations committee, which only has recommendation power for a reason—it is a committee appointed by one person who may have known or unknown or unrecognized implicit biases. It is a committee which constitutes about only one-eighth of the entire DTC. The entire DTC retains the sole right to make the decision

about who becomes the DTC-endorsed candidate. Johnson reasoned that pointing out the correct process was fair when Steinberg did it eight years ago, and was fair in 2021.

77. In the course of phone calls with Johnson, Steinberg, however, continued to try to intimidate and bully Johnson with an argument that it is okay for him to contest the process when it does not work out for him, as in 2013. But when it does work out for him with a committee weighted in his favor, then any talk of process and fairness amounts to treason.

78. In essence, Steinberg argued to Johnson that when he had the benefit in 2021 of his campaign chair (Newman) sitting on the nominations committee, a person with a vested interest in him running for First Selectman so she can take his state seat (Kane) sitting on the committee, a person vested in helping Kane's agenda sitting on the committee (Lautenberg), and two people who already stated in advance that they favor Steinberg (Nevas and Friedman) sitting on the committee, any discussion by Johnson that she understands the fairness concerns of the disappointed candidates constitutes treason, a betrayal and amounts to an effort to support an "agenda" to "splinter the DTC."

79. Steinberg's petulant and thin-skinned tirade with Johnson became unhinged from reason. Johnson finally texted Steinberg that his communications reflect his view that he and the DTC should stop anyone voicing concerns about fair procedures that do not square with Steinberg's personal ambitions. Johnson said she found Steinberg's communications and conduct to be "scary."

80. All of Steinberg's above-described allegations about plaintiff's conduct and motives were false.

81. Steinberg's inappropriate retaliatory, bullying conduct did not end there. He continued to attempt to bully members of the Democratic community and to lie and defame plaintiff, with absolutely no provocation from plaintiff to justify Steinberg's false blaming of plaintiff for the views of others.

82. Steinberg wrote to Sal Liccione on May 20, 2021, and informed him that plaintiff has "manipulated" Johnson. This was false and defamatory.

83. Steinberg wrote to Sal Liccione on May 20, 2021 and claimed that Liccione's expressed views that plaintiff was open, inviting, and a great co-chair of the Communications Strategy Committee ("CS Committee") was an effort to make things worse by "encouraging Kristan and [First Selectman candidate] Sheri." Apparently, Steinberg remained so unhinged, that he thought that persons who worked with plaintiff on the CS committee and felt she was fair, open, inviting and inclusive were undermining the DTC, and it was part of some plot to support Sheri Gordon's candidacy. Steinberg's allegations were based on unhinged imaginings and had nothing to do with reality. His allegations about plaintiff were false, misleading and unjustified.

84. Steinberg wrote Sal Liccione on May 20, 2021 that people who wanted DTC members to know accurate facts about the process to become a DTC-endorsed candidate as set forth in State Central rules were "helping Jen and Kristan" and this "hurts the DTC and my campaign."

85. Steinberg's stated view that his personal political ambitions were indistinguishable from that of the DTC was a breathtaking admission of Steinberg's arrogance, sense of entitlement, lack of objectivity and failure to understand that *he* is not the DTC; the DTC is bigger than any one candidate's personal interests.

86. Steinberg's acknowledgement that telling the truth about the correct process would "hurt" his "campaign" was an implicit acknowledgement that a fair process before the whole DTC would not have resulted in his selection.

87. Steinberg once again defamed plaintiff by claiming to Liccione in writing on May 20, 2021 that plaintiff was somehow behind a discussion of a correct process as a means of helping Sheri Gordon. In fact, Gordon was not even plaintiff's preferred candidate for First Selectman in 2021 and plaintiff's concerns regarding fair processes were not aimed at promoting any particular candidate. Again, Steinberg's conspiracy theories and claims were defamatory, baseless, unhinged, and speculative.

88. Steinberg bullied and threatened Sal Liccione by warning him ominously in writing in a text message on May, 20, 2021, to "be very careful who you support and who you criticize."

89. Steinberg lied and defamed plaintiff in writing to Sal Liccione on May 20, 2021, and in communications with others that "Kristan is intent on destroying the DTC and our candidates." Steinberg's allegations were false and defamatory.

90. Plaintiff has in fact worked tireless and selflessly over fourteen years to promote all DTC candidates and has never taken any action ever to destroy any DTC candidates; quite the opposite. Plaintiff has never harbored even a thought—much less an alleged "intent on destroying the DTC" and/or the DTC's endorsed candidates. There has never once in the fourteen years, prior to the text message sent by Steinberg, been a single incident or moment in which plaintiff has worked or intended to undermine a DTC-endorsed candidate. Steinberg's comments were libelous, unhinged from reality, evidence of his paranoid ideations, and baseless.

91. Indeed, unlike Steinberg, Kane and Newman, plaintiff's efforts on behalf of the DTC have always been selfless.

92. Plaintiff has advocated following State Central Rules and Westport DTC Bylaws because of her sincere belief that those rules are in the best interest of the general DTC. Steinberg's and Kane's ideas about what is 'best for the DTC' is what is best for *them personally*, and they have advocated mowing over the established rules in their personal, selfish quests for office.

93. Steinberg's conduct in defamatorily savaging committed Democrats like plaintiff shocked those privy to his written communications and oral tirades.

94. This conduct caused concern that Steinberg was unstable and that his employers' prior assessments of his explosive temper, 'anger management issues' and unsuitability for an office environment remained correct

95. Democrats aware of his communications became concerned that he has proven himself unfit to maintain an office in which hundreds of Town employees would report to him, just as his prior employers had found, which rendered him unemployable in his chosen profession of marketing during the last fourteen years. Democrats now became concerned that it would be scary to see how volatile and savage the retaliation against Town employees could be against any Town employees who voice a contrary view to the views favoring Steinberg.

E. Newman's Defamatory Comments

96. Newman is a local resident who sought an open spot on the DTC as Secretary, for which no one else contemporaneously applied after Friedman withdrew and ran for vice chair.

97. Despite the fact that there were no other contenders for the spot, the DTC Chair, Lautenberg, resisted including Newman as a potential officer. In plaintiff's backyard one evening, Lautenberg explained to plaintiff that she did not think that Newman was "officer material" because Newman had such an extreme reputation in the community for divisiveness and toxicity.

98. Although Lautenberg was correct about Newman's reputation with some, Plaintiff nonetheless agreed to Newman's request to plaintiff that plaintiff nominate Newman to the position. Plaintiff did so on the grounds that, *inter alia*, there were no other candidates for the spot. Plaintiff nominated Newman, and by default, Newman got the spot as Secretary.

99. By the summer of 2020, Newman was bragging to plaintiff how Lautenberg was "only as good as the last person in her ear" and that her new role allowed her to be 'always in Lautenberg's ear.'

100. Newman bragged to plaintiff in September 2020 that the officers had not even seated an Executive Committee (despite State Central rules that an Executive Committee must have been elected and in place by March/April 2020). This allowed Newman to promote positions to Lautenberg without the normal democratic checks and balance procedures in place.

101. Newman claimed to plaintiff in August and September 2020 that she was effectively running the DTC. She described how, every Tuesday, she had calls with Lautenberg. Prior to that, Newman claimed she routinely called Vice Chair Friedman to get him on the same page regarding whatever she would planned to promote to Lautenberg. Newman described to plaintiff that Friedman was malleable and grateful for the crumbs of her friendship and easily manipulated in the calls Newman made to him before she and Friedman presented a joint position to Lautenberg.

102. By the summer of 2020, Newman explained to plaintiff that she perceived that Lautenberg saw her role as promoting Kane's interests.

103. Newman knew that plaintiff thought the DTC had to be about what was best for the DTC and Democrats in the town, and that cronyistic considerations and support for candidates (such as Kane) who Westporters had repeatedly rejected for town-wide office was inconsistent with the best interests of the Democratic party.

104. Numerous DTC and town members began reporting (including to plaintiff) in the autumn of 2020 that Newman was making derogatory statements against plaintiff. Upon information and belief, she did so in order to endear herself with Kane and Kanes's small coterie of supporters in town and those Kane had placed on the DTC, and in retaliation for plaintiff's opposition to Newman's advocacy for a measure that would essentially irresponsibly admit to legal liability in suits against the Town of Westport.

105. Despite the fact that plaintiff had worked tirelessly for Steinberg in the past and devoted generously her time to his campaigns and to fundraisers, Newman began a false narrative

against plaintiff, which she shared with Steinberg, Friedman, Lautenberg and others. Newman claimed that plaintiff opposed Steinberg, which was untrue.

106. Newman additionally harbored retaliatory animus against plaintiff because plaintiff would not go along with Newman's plan to savage Jen Tooker in the press, based on Tooker's attenuated relationship with a newcomer to the RTC who had supported Donald Trump.

107. On May 10, 2021, Newman claimed before the Executive Committee of the DTC, which included Carolanne Curry, Wendy Batteau, Michael Gordon, Lauren Soloff, Jonathon Steinberg (an unelected member illegally seated as a member of the Executive Committee by Lautenberg), Robin Weinberg, Michael Kaplan, Melissa Kane (an unelected member illegally seated as a member of the Executive Committee by Lautenberg), Nancy Axthelm, Daniel Roberti, Peter Propp, Alan Shinbaum, Ellen Lautenberg, Mark Friedman, and Lisa Newman, the following false and defamatory statements: that plaintiff was trying to undermine the DTC's candidates, that the plaintiff was a liar and a bully who mistreated her CS Committee members, that there were people who did not want to join the DTC because of plaintiff and that the members of plaintiff's committee (which plaintiff chaired) felt plaintiff was not inclusive, and did not want to listen to others' views. Newman told the above Executive Committee members that plaintiff would refuse to do her job as Communications Strategy Chair because plaintiff was promoting a false claim about the bias of the Nominations Committee.

108. Steinberg joined Newman in making these false allegations. None of these statements set forth in paragraph 107 were true. They were all baseless, false and defamatory.

COUNT I
DEFAMATION AGAINST STEINBERG

109. Plaintiff repeats the allegations in paragraph 1 through 108, as though fully set forth herein.

110. Defendant Steinberg published the above-described defamatory statements against plaintiff;

111. The defamatory statements identified the plaintiff to third persons, as described above;

112. The defamatory statements were published to third persons, as described above;

113. The plaintiff's reputation suffered injury as a result of the statement.

114. Plaintiff is entitled to such compensatory and other damages as are to be established at trial.

115. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of compensatory and punitive damages, to be determined at trial.

COUNT II
DEFAMATION AGAINST NEWMAN

116. Plaintiff repeats the allegations in paragraph 1 through 115, as though fully set forth herein.

117. Defendant Newman published the above-described defamatory statements against plaintiff, as described above;

118. The defamatory statements identified the plaintiff to third persons, as described above;

119. The defamatory statements were published to third persons, as described above;

120. Plaintiff's reputation suffered injury as a result of the statement.

121. Plaintiff is entitled to such compensatory and other damages as are to be established at trial.

122. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of compensatory and punitive damages, to be determined at trial.

COUNT III
FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION AGAINST STEINBERG

123. Plaintiff repeats the allegations in paragraph 1 through 122, as though fully set forth herein.

124. As described above, Steinberg made false representations about his resume, work history and employment as if statements of fact, and published such falsehoods;

125. The statements were untrue and known to be so by Steinberg;

126. The statement was made with the intent of inducing reliance thereon; and

127. Plaintiff and others relied on the statement to their detriment.

128. Plaintiff is entitled to such compensatory and other damages as are to be established at trial.

129. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of compensatory and punitive damages, to be determined at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF prays as follows:

1. For such nominal, compensatory, statutory, liquidated, exemplary and punitive damages as shall be found at trial, together with appropriate equitable relief;
2. For attorney's fees, costs associated with this action, expert fees and prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
3. Enjoining and permanently restraining these violations;

4. For consequential damages;
5. For pain, suffering, emotional distress and humiliation;
6. For treble damages;
7. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMANDED BY PLAINTIFF

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury in this action.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT IN DEMAND

Plaintiff claims damages well in excess of \$15,000.

VERIFICATION OF AMENDED COMPLAINT:

I, KRISTAN HAMLIN, have read the above allegations and do verify that they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kristan Hamlin /s/

Kristan Hamlin

Dated: July 3, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

by: **William Lalor** / 441549

LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM P. LALOR,
PLLC

23 Hubbard Road,

Wilton, CT 06897

646.818.9870

wlalor@lalorattorneys.com

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5. For pain, suffering, emotional distress and humiliation;
6. For treble damages;
7. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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Kristan Hamlin /s/ 

Kristan Hamlin

Dated: July 3, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

by: **William Lalor / 441549**

LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM P. LALOR,
PLLC

23 Hubbard Road,

Wilton, CT 06897

646.818.9870

wlalor@lalorattorneys.com



Home



My Network



Jobs

Looking For New Roles? - Companies In Connecticut Are Seeking Professionals



Jonathan Philip Steinberg · 1st

State Representative, 136th District
at Connecticut General Assembly

Westport, Connecticut, United States ·

Contact info

428 connections



67 mutual connections: Mark Mathias, Maxine Bleiweis, and 65 others

Message

More



Connecticut General
Assembly



NYU Stern School of
Business

Activity

432 followers

Posts Jonathan Philip created, shared, or commented on in the last 90 days are displayed here.

See all activity

Experience



State Representative, 136th District

Ex A



Home

My Network

Jobs

I

State Representative

Municipal Government

2011 – Present · 10 yrs

Principal

JPS Marketing

2007 – Present · 14 yrs

S.V.P. Marketing and Communications

The Jewish Home and Hospital Lifecare System

2005 – 2007 · 2 yrs

Executive Director, Marketing/Communications

Mount Sinai Medical Center

1998 – 2003 · 5 yrs

Education**NYU Stern School of Business**

M.B.A., Marketing

1982 – 1984

**Yale University**

B.A., Psychology

1974 – 1979

Activities and Societies: A capella singing groups (Whiffs, Duke's Men, Redhot & Blue)



sots_search_results

name	id
JPS BUILDERS, INC.	295885
JPS BUILDING & REMODELING, LLC	824961
JPS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC	755651
JPS & CO., LLC	693810
JPS COMPLETE CLEANING SERVICES, LLC	778624
JPS CONSTRUCTION, LLC	644459
JPS CONSULTING LLC	995672
JPS CONSULTING SERVICES LLC	1337223
JPS CONTRACTING & HOME IMPROVEMENT, LLC	1173578
JPS DESIGNS LIMITED	231021
JPS ENTERPRISES, LLC	727706
JPS FUND GROUP, LLC	799619
JPS GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LLC	1202205
JPS INVESTMENTS, LLC	584883
JPS LANDSCAPING LLC	1340458
JPS LAUNDRY, INC.	202223
JPS LEGACY, INC.	24386
JPS, LTD.	133878
JPS MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC	1101101
JPS MANAGEMENT LLC	1385374
JPS MEDIATION & CONSULTING, LLC	961692
JPS PAINTING LLC	1163103
JPS PAINTING SERVICES LLC	1358251
JPS PARTNERS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	757134
JPS POOL SERVICE, LLC	1172539
JPS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS, LLC	759173
JPS REAL ESTATE LLC	1251069
JPS REALTY GROUP LLC	1329211
JPS SAIL, INC.	303259
JPS SCRAP SERVICES LLC	1234800
JPS SERVICES, LLC	989019
JPS & SONS GENERAL SERVICES LLC	895267
JPS TALCOTT, LLC	1024875
JPS TRADING FUND, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	800054
JPS TRUCKING, LLC	676847

principal
JOHN P. SCELZA, MARIE LOUISE SCELZA
JAMES STECEWICZ
JEFFREY P. SEMEL
JAMES P. SLATTERY, ESTATE OF, JAMES SLATTERY, III, JOANNE SLATTERY, KENNETH P. SLATTERY, MICHAEL T. SLATTERY, STEVEN M. MILAN
JESUS L. PERNIA
PHILIP V. SPINELLA
JOSEPH SMOOLCA
JAYSON SCHOD
SUDHIR PALMA
JEFFREY P. SEMEL
JONNATHAN A SALAZAR MOSCOSO
JUAN P SANCHEZ PARTIDA
KENNETH PALMERO
CHARLES N. MCCLURE, JR., ELLEN M. LOVING., SUSAN M. HATFIELD.
JEFFREY PETER SHANTAR
CONSTANCE SCHINGH, JACQUES SCHINGH
PEDRO SANTOS SANTIAGO
JUAN P SANCHEZ ROJAS
JPS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC
JOSHUA MATTEY
JEFFREY SIEGEL
JUSTIN SAMUELS
JOSHUA MATTEY
JANE P. SCHONAGEL
JAMES SALERNO, ROXANNE FLOOD
JAMIE MAINES, PETER CLARK
JURACY PEREIRA DESOUZA
JOANN P STRYCHARZ, PAUL B. STRYCHARZ
JPS FUND GROUP, LLC
JOHN PAUL SIMOES

Ex. B

agent	date formed	status	type	street	city	state	zip
JAMES F RIPPER	03/07/1994	Dissolved	Domestic Stock Corporation	JOHN P SCELZA, 76 STAGECOACH LANE	NEWINGTON	CT	6111
JAMES STECEWICZ	06/17/2005	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	244 ALBRECHT ST	TORRINGTON	CT	6790
JEFFREY P. SEMEL	07/25/2003	Active	Foreign Limited Liability Company	47 MARION RD.	WESTPORT	CT	6880
STEVEN M. MILANO	12/17/2001	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	84 BITTERSWEET LANE	NEW CANAAN	CT	6840
JESUS L. PERNIA	03/17/2004	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	60 FOURTH ST	HAMDEN	CT	6514
PETER V. GELDERMAN	02/24/2000	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	12 HYDE TERRACE	TRUMBULL	CT	6611
MARK IANNONE	02/08/2010	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	247 WOODTICK ROAD	WOLCOTT	CT	6716
JOSEPH SMOOLCA	02/24/2020	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	212 ETHAN DRIVE	WINDSOR	CT	6095
PETER T. DONNELLY	04/28/2015	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	26 MULBERRY ROAD	TRUMBULL	CT	6611
C T CORPORATION SYSTEM	03/27/1989	Dissolved	Domestic Stock Corporation	SELIM YOLAC, 42 FERN VALLEY ROAD	WESTON	CT	6883
NICHOLAS PAINDIRIS	10/04/2002	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	838 SILVER LANE	EAST HARTFORD	CT	6118
JEFFREY P. SEMEL	10/19/2004	Active	Foreign Limited Liability Company	47 MARION ROAD	WESTPORT	CT	6880
JONNATHAN A SALAZAR MOSCOSO	04/05/2016	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	48 PLEASANT ST	DANBURY	CT	6810
MELISSA T. KLAUBERG	03/02/1998	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	80 MASON STREET	GREENWICH	CT	6830
MARIO A DOBLES	03/26/2020	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	19 HILLSIDE PLACE	NORWALK	CT	6854
PRENTICE-HALL CORPORATION SYSTEM	06/24/1987	Revoked	Foreign Stock Corporation	124 B MESSNER	WHEELING	IL	60690
LOUIS R. PISCATELLI	01/14/1965	Active	Domestic Stock Corporation	11 OLD ORCHARD RD	CARBONDALE	CO	81623
JUDITH PSZENICA STRAIGHT	09/01/1982	Forfeited	Domestic Stock Corporation	JUDITH P STRAIGHT, 60 LAWN AVE UNIT 28	STAMFORD	CT	6902
CHARLES N MCCLURE JR.	03/15/2013	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	132 OLD QUARRY RD	GUILFORD	CT	6437
UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC.	03/31/2021	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	20 HOUSATONIC DR.	SANDY HOOK	CT	6482
JACQUES P. SCHINGH	02/02/2009	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	18 LAWNCREST DRIVE	NORTH HAVEN	CT	6473
LOUIS SACOTO	01/06/2015	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	53 SANFORD AVE APT 1	BRIDGEPORT	CT	6604
MARIO A DOBLES	09/09/2020	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	200 EAST AVENUE, APT. 3	NORWALK	CT	6855
JEFFREY P. SEMEL	08/14/2003	Active	Foreign Limited Partnership	47 MARION ROAD	WESTPORT	CT	6880
UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC.	04/16/2015	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	29 HYDE RD	BROOKLYN	CT	6234
RICHARD W. MALSFROTE	09/08/2003	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	84 NEWTON RD	WOODBIDGE	CT	6525
JUSTIN P. SAMUELS	09/26/2017	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	534 WEST ROAD	NEW CANAAN	CT	6840
UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC.	12/04/2019	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	29 HYDE RD.	BROOKLYN	CT	6234
	10/14/1994	Active	Domestic Stock Corporation	3725 S. OCEAN DRIVE, #1516	Hollywood	FL	33019
ROBERT CARLSON	04/04/2017	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	235 PRATT ST	MERIDEN	CT	6050
PETER A. CLARK	11/20/2009	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	25 SALEM CIRCLE	WINDSOR	CT	6095
RAFAEL MIRANDA DE SOUZA	04/09/2007	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	93 PARK AVE 904	DANBURY	CT	6810
PAUL BERNARD STRYCHARZ	01/03/2011	Dissolved	Domestic Limited Liability Company	165 BOSTON TPKE	POMFRET CENTER	CT	6259
JEFFREY P. SEMEL	10/22/2004	Active	Foreign Limited Partnership	47 MARION ROAD	WESTPORT	CT	6880
JOHN P. SIMOES	04/02/2001	Active	Domestic Limited Liability Company	6 GREAT PASTURE RD.	DANBURY	CT	6810

6/8/2021

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10:35



< 40

L

LisaNewman >

would've been like if he
had to go to Hartford?

Jonathan's campaign is
slow going; chip
hasn't campaigned at all
so we're staying steady
and slow

Maybe Chip really
doesn't want it?

That's my theory

Do you think Jonathan's
going to actually run for
first selectmen?

Hard to tell. I did tell him
I don't think he can win
against tooker



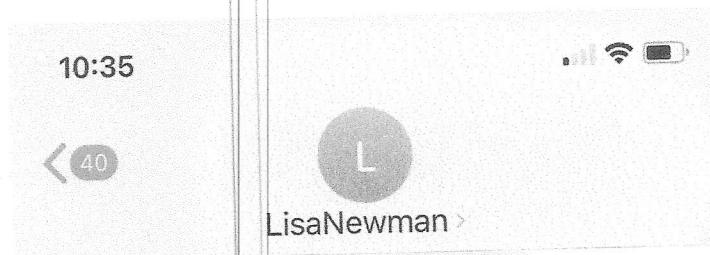
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F&C

6/8/2021

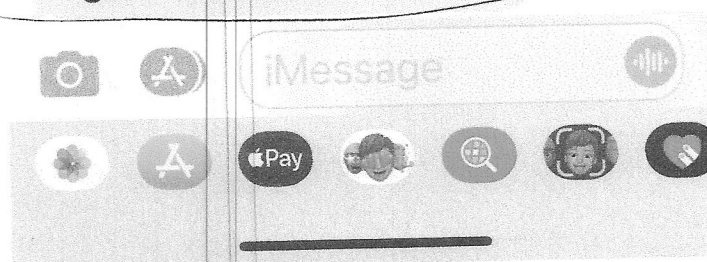
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Hard to tell. I did tell him
I don't think he can win
against tooker

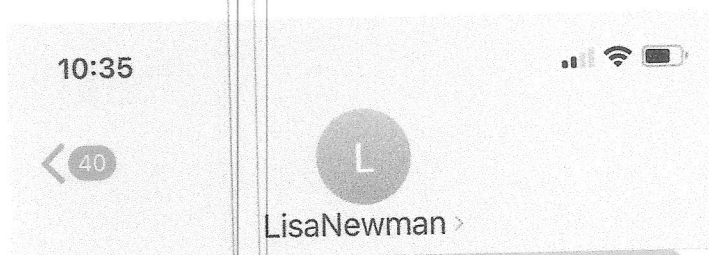
Wow! I am really
surprised that you tell
him that! How does he
react to that?

It was a fairly casual
conversation but also
I'm nothing if not
honest. We were talking
about how this
campaign is two older
white guys which is one
thing and I made the
point to tell him he
doesn't stand a chance
against a woman



6/8/2021

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And his reaction?

It was a casual and very off the cuff conversation in my driveway a couple weeks back. He wasn't reactive good or bad; rather conceded I prob have a point that he'd have tough chances against tooker

At some point when this race is over I also have zero issue telling him he is a fundraising nightmare?

That's my biggest issue with him thinking about a different office



6/8/2021

0 (1125x2436)

10:36



LisaNewman >

That's my biggest issue
with him thinking about
a different office

Why is he a fundraiser
nightmare?

He hates asking people
for money. He can barely
get to the low threshold
(less than \$5,000) to
get financing for state
rep.

Largely because he
doesn't like making the
ask

First selectman
campaign takes six
figures



iMessage



6/8/2021

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10:36



< 40



LisaNewman >

Largely because he
doesn't like making the
ask

First selectman
campaign takes six
figures

Really? How did you
learn that it took six
figures?

Melissa and Rob raised
well over six figures
during their run

Was that enough? Did
they feel like they still
needed to raise even
more?

I think they had enough



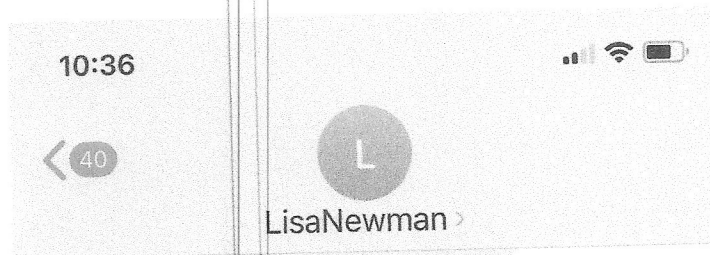
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C

6/8/2021

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First selectman
campaign takes six
figures

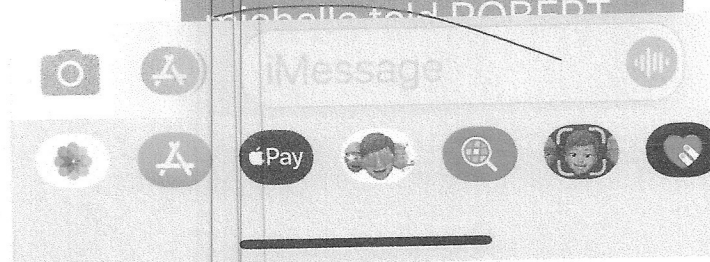
Really? How did you
learn that it took six
figures?

Melissa and Rob raised
well over six figures
during their run

Was that enough? Did
they feel like they still
needed to raise even
more?

I think they had enough.

I still can't get over that



6/21/2021

Gmail - FW: O'Day's Response to Jen Johnson's DTC email



Kris Hamlin <krishamlin21@gmail.com>

FW: O'Day's Response to Jen Johnson's DTC email

11 messages

Thu, May 20, 2021 at 11:17 PM

Don <donald.g.oday@gmail.com>

To: "mcgarvey.brian@gmail.com" <mcgarvey.brian@gmail.com>, "jeffreyahammer@gmail.com" <jeffreyahammer@gmail.com>, "michael@gordon.us" <michael@gordon.us>, "stephen.shackelford.jr@gmail.com" <stephen.shackelford.jr@gmail.com>, "bruce@cpinyc.com" <bruce@cpinyc.com>, "davidsmailbox49@gmail.com" <davidsmailbox49@gmail.com>, "eshaer01@aol.com" <eshaer01@aol.com>, "gphelan@mitchelandsheahan.com" <gphelan@mitchelandsheahan.com>, "indiavanV@gmail.com" <indiavanV@gmail.com>, "jen.meerow@gmail.com" <jen.meerow@gmail.com>, "jessica@theparentcollective.com" <jessica@theparentcollective.com>, "reabof@aol.com" <reabof@aol.com>, "naxthelm@gmail.com" <naxthelm@gmail.com>, "nickp@pizarro.org" <nickp@pizarro.org>, "rkent@mbnllp.com" <rkent@mbnllp.com>, sal liccione <salliccione2001@yahoo.com>, "sherri.gordon1@gmail.com" <sherri.gordon1@gmail.com>, Kris Hamlin <krishamlin21@gmail.com>, "jsaluck@aol.com" <jsaluck@aol.com>

I was happy to read Jennifer Johnson's recent email where she expressed concern about the process surrounding the DTC's Nominating Committee and their candidate recommendation for First Selectman.

I want to congratulate Jen for having the courage and integrity to address those concerns. It was well written and I strongly agree with her.

Why do I agree? I was one of the four candidates that Jen referenced who sought the DTC's nomination for First Selectman. So, I can speak to this.

I won't get into the reasons why I decided to run other than to say I was very confident I would win the race if I was nominated. I also believe I would do a fine job. I based this confidence on my professional management and financial experience, my years as the Chair of the Board of Education and, more recently, my leadership of the very successful and highly praised rebuilding of Coleytown Middle School.

You likely know that I wasn't selected by the Nominating Committee. Were my prospects sunk going in because Jonathan had the nomination locked up? Only DTC leadership knows the answer and I think it's ok to ask that question.

Ex. D

6/21/2021

Gmail - FW: O'Day's Response to Jen Johnson's DTC email

Perhaps I really had no chance to secure the Democrats because I publicly supported my BOE colleague, Jim Marpe, over Melissa Kane when they both ran for First Selectman 2017. Yes, I supported a Republican. A number of Democrats in Westport did too.

But it did not bode well for my selection.

Indeed, my interview featured a number of questions about why I supported Jim instead of Melissa and, remarkably, Melissa Kane was part my interview. You read that right. But, she was the only person who did not ask a question. Melissa's presence was inappropriate and did not foster an open exchange of ideas. Bottom line: she should not have been part of the Nominating Committee and that is a leadership issue. Further, the team that interviewed me included a former Steinberg campaign manager. While that individual has done great things for our town, perhaps they should not have been part of the candidate interview process. Sometimes it's all about appearance.

So, yes, I believe the selection process was flawed and I hope things change.

One last comment, this is not an anti-Jonathan email. It is nothing more than a criticism of the process.

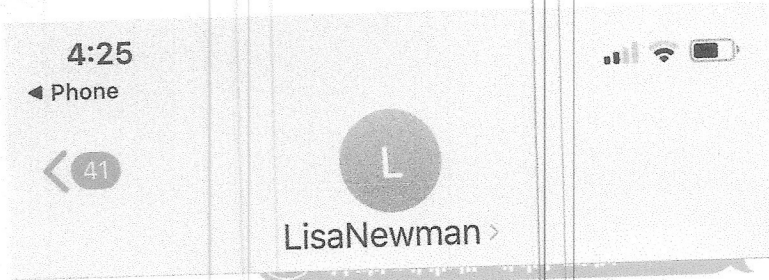
Thanks again to Jen Johnson for speaking up. For what it's worth, I'm fine with some characterizing this email as sour grapes (it's not). I just want to see the process improve and become more transparent.

Best Regards,

Don O'Day

6/9/2021

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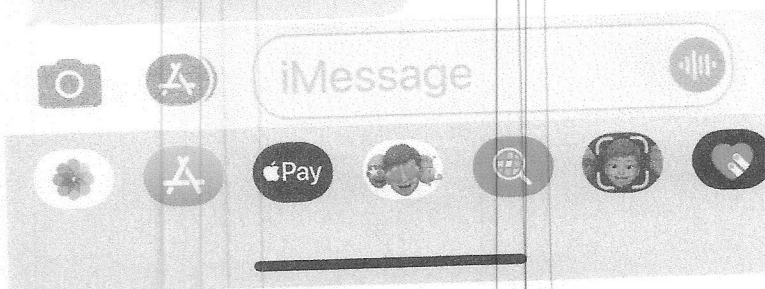


I wasn't on yesterday's call bc I'm drowning with three different kids school schedules and one kid under quarantine. I've cancelled everything this week to focus on my family.

The last we left things, she wants you on nominating.

She'd prefer you don't challenge Nancy who enthusiastically wants her spot back.

Enthusiastically*



Ex. E

6/21/2021

Gmail - Tonight's DTC meeting - The Nominating Committee's recommendation



Kris Hamlin <krishamlin21@gmail.com>

Tonight's DTC meeting - The Nominating Committee's recommendation

17 messages

Jennifer Johnson <jbarrjohnson@gmail.com>

Wed, May 19, 2021 at 3:06 PM

To: mcgarvey.brian@gmail.com, michael@gordon.us, stephen.shackelford.jr@gmail.com, bruce@cpinyc.com, davidsmailbox49@gmail.com, eshaer01@aol.com, gphelan@mittchellandsheahan.com, naxthelm@gmail.com, Michael Rea <Reabof@aol.com>, Jen Meerow Berniker <jen.meerow@gmail.com>, jessica@theparentcollective.com, Kris Hamlin <krishamlin21@gmail.com>, rkent@mbnlip.com, Sal Liccione <salliccione2001@yahoo.com>, nickp@pizarro.org, Sheri Gordon <sheri.gordon1@gmail.com>, "jsaluck@aol.com" <jsaluck@aol.com>, Evan Barr <etbarr01@gmail.com>, Jeffreyahammer@gmail.com, indiavanV@gmail.com

Dear DTC representative,

At tonight's DTC meeting the leadership will announce candidates endorsed by the DTC Nominating Committee. I am writing now to urge you to pause, recognize that these are non-binding recommendations, and play your part in participating in a more open and inclusive election process at the upcoming DTC meeting in July.

The DTC Bylaws and the Democratic Party State Rules make clear that only the entire DTC, sitting in quorum during the last week of July, has the power to choose the DTC-endorsed candidates. Our DTC has developed an unofficial practice of using a Nominating Committee which has the advisory role to recommend candidates. But the entire DTC may always choose to reject or accept that committee's recommendations.

Indeed, eight years ago, Jonathan Steinberg and Ken Wirfel asked the entire DTC membership to reject the Nominating Committee's recommendation for First Selectman on the grounds that the process was result-oriented and undemocratic. The same closed process was followed again four years ago. In both cases, the Democratic candidates who emerged from the insular Nominating Committee process went down to resounding defeat in the general election.

We do not want another four years of Republican control in this town, but that is what we will likely face if we do not focus on choosing the most competitive and electable candidate possible for the upcoming town wide race. The only way to make that happen is to ensure a more open, broad-based selection process.

The Nominating Committee does serve some basic useful purposes in vetting and interviewing candidates. But the problem is that the DTC Chair has total control in appointing its members. This year, the Chair constituted a committee in a way that was result-oriented, seeking to ensure the nomination of Jonathan Steinberg.

Predictably, with a leadership dead-set on ensuring that Jonathan was the committee's recommended candidate, the other four potential candidates felt the process was biased and the results preordained. Intent on choosing committee members who would rubber stamp the result that she sought, the Chair failed to give due consideration to other candidates of merit. I am not saying that Jonathan Steinberg is a bad candidate. I solely seek to address the need for a fair and open process that all qualified candidates and our party membership can respect.

The best candidates emerge from an open, vibrant process. I urge you to insist that the whole DTC conduct a robust selection process in July when the full body meets to hear nominations from the floor, and vote for the candidate you feel is most likely to defeat the Republican nominee.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Johnson
Registered Westport Democrat

Ex. F

New post on 06880



Dems Select Jonathan Steinberg, Candice Savin For Selectmen

by Dan Woog

The race for Westport's 1st selectman is set. The candidates are "Jonathan" and "Jen."

The field with 2 popular opponents -- well known to Westporters by their first names -- was formalized today. The Democratic Town Committee nominated State Representative Jonathan Steinberg to run against Republican 2nd Selectman Jen Tooker.

Steinberg's running mate is Board of Education chair Candice Savin. Tooker is joined by Board of Finance vice chair Andrea Moore Lawrence.

Steinberg -- a native Westporter, and 1974 Staples High School graduate -- is in his 6th term as state representative. As co-chair of the Public Health Committee, he worked closely with the Department of Public Health and governor's office on COVID response.

A long-term member of both the Transportation and Energy & Technology Committees, he has addressed issues like electric vehicles, solar power and infrastructure. In Hartford, where he is a leader of the House Democratic Moderates Caucus, Steinberg has also been at the forefront of budget issues.

Ex.G

Ex.G

06880

Where Westport meets the world

CLARIFICATION: Steinberg Running For 1st Selectman — Not Official Dem Selection Yet

Posted on [June 15, 2021](#) | [2 Comments](#)

“o6880” reported this morning that the field is set for the selectman’s race this fall.

In fact, while Jonathan Steinberg and Candice Savin have filed documents with the town clerk to run, the formal nominating process has not yet taken place.

The Democratic Town Committee caucus will occur in the last week of July. At that meeting there will be recommendations from the Nominating Committee for the selectman’s race, and others.

But other candidates may be nominated from the floor. The officially endorsed candidate will be made by a vote of DTC members at that meeting.



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One blogger likes this.

This entry was posted in [Local politics](#) and tagged [Candice Savin](#), [Jonathan Steinberg](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

2 RESPONSES TO “CLARIFICATION: STEINBERG RUNNING FOR 1ST SELECTMAN — NOT OFFICIAL DEM SELECTION YET”

Rozanne Gates | [June 15, 2021 at 1:45 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Ex. H

6/21/2021

CLARIFICATION: Steinberg Running For 1st Selectman — Not Official Dem Selection Yet | 06880

Jonathan is ready and oh so capable of leading this town as its First Selectman. His integrity, his love of Westport, his knowledge of both local and state government will serve this community extremely well. We are lucky to have as smart and caring a man as Jonathan Steinberg wanting to run this town.

Like

Daryl Styner(-Presley) | [June 18, 2021 at 8:55 am](#) | [Reply](#)

I'm still waiting for the movie theatre that Johnathan Steinberg promised to bring back to Westport nearly a decade ago! If he can't even produce a Community priority expressed way back when, what would make anyone believe any of his campaign goals or promises now? He's all talk, trendy hype, without the skills to put all his "bluster" into action or accomplishment.

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Westport Democratic Town Committee - DTC

Thank you Senator Richard Blumenthal, Congressm...

Wendy Goldwyn Batteau, Lisa Alter and 28 others
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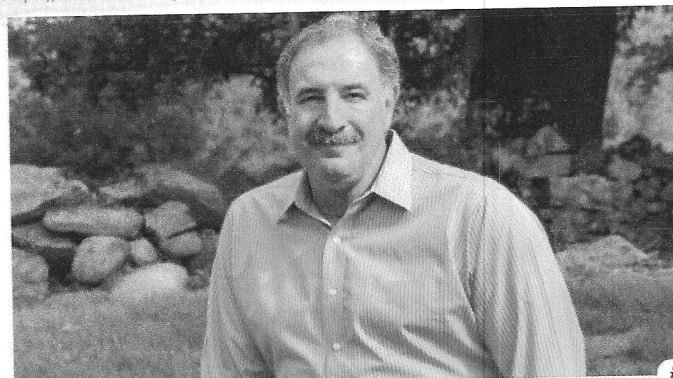
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Westport Democratic Town Committee - DTC

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"We're a great team. We know everyone, from young people to seniors. We have a broad connection to the community. And we both know how to build consensus, make tough decisions, be inclusive as possible, and lead in the right direction. We'll be true to Westport's values: the arts, environment, inclusion, and taking care of our neediest citizens."

<https://06880danwoog.com/.../dems-select-jonathan.../>



06880DANWOOG.COM

[UPDATE] Jonathan Steinberg, Candice Savin Enter Race For Selectmen
State legislator, Board of Ed chair head ticket

Cindy McDonald, Andrew Nevas and 8 others

Ex.I